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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

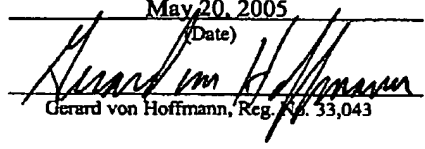
Applicant : George F. Kick et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/728,728  
Filed : December 5, 2003  
For : EXPANDABLE  
PERCUTANEOUS SHEATH  
Examiner : Glenn K. Dawson  
Group Art Unit : 3739

## CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
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May 20, 2005

(Date)

  
Gerard von Hoffmann, Reg. No. 33,043

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.